NORTHWICH RURAL DISTRICT.

1 9 1 8

Report of Medical Officer of Health.

POPULATION The total number of births during 1918 was 462 and the number of deaths registered was 353 giving an excess of births over deaths of 109. This number of deaths is exclusive of all military subjects For the calculation of birth rates the population includes members of H.M.Forces and is estimated to be 25874: while for death rates thes members of H.M.Forces are excluded and the population is estimated to be 22914.

In the vicinity of Northwich and Middlewich the erection of Factories for War Material has caused a great influx of population

The following table shows the numbersof births in each District during each quarter as registered.

	1st.Quart.			2nd.Quart.			3rd.Quart.			4th.Quart.			Whole year.		
	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.	M.	F.	Total.
W'ham	16	21	37	27	19	46	21	18	39	23	22	41	87	79	166
N'wich	28	18	46	19	22	41	23	14	37	19	18	37	89	72	161
Over	12	6	18	5	9	14	5	3	8	7	9	16	29	27	56
M'wich	7	15	22	16	9	25	3	12	15	5	12	17	31	48	79
Whole Dist	63	60	123	67	59	126	52	47	99	54	60	114	236	226	462

Illegitimate

W'ham 6 { 5M, 1F }

N'wich 7 { 3M, 4F } = ...20

Over 5 { 2M, 3F }

M'wich 27.

The corrected number is 467 and the number of illegitimate births 22. The rate per 1000 is 18.1 and the illegitimate birth rate .85 per 1000.

DEATHS. The number of deaths of civilians during 1918 was 353 (corrected) of which 177 were males and 176 females the rate being 15.4 per 1000 of the population.

Table 3 shows the causes of and ages at death as registered (of civilian residents) while table M13 shows the list as corrected at the General Register Office. It will be seen that Influenza with Bronchitis and Pneumonia caused a very great proportion of the total. Respiratory diseases caused 22 deaths in the first quarter during which there were none from Influenza or measles although the latter disease was epidemic and probably the respiratory deaths were partly due to that cause 8 being of children under 5 years old In the 2nd Quarter there were 4 deaths from measles and 14 from respiratory diseases (7 being children under 2 years) during the 3rd Quarter there were 7 deaths from Influenza and 3 from Bronchitis and Pneumonia while during the last Quarter there were 30 deaths from Influenza and 20 from Bronchitis and Pneumonia. There were 22 deaths from heart Disease 10 from Bright's disease, 10 from Old Age 26 from Tubercular Diseases 23 from Cancer, 9 from Violence and Suicide only 1 from Diarrhea, 1 from Parturition and none from Appendicitis.

Of the Infectious Diseases Enteric Fever caused 1 death Measles 5 Scarlet Fever 2 Whooping Cough 3 and Diphtheria 3.

INFANTILE MORTALITY. The number of Infants who died before reaching one year of age was 46 (corrected); 30 being males and 16 females. Table 6 shows the causes and ages of children as registered and it will be seen that 3 were from Influenza 13 from Bronchitis and Pneumonia 1 measles 2 Whooping Cough and 1 Diphtheria: 4 were from Syphilis 6 from Premature Births. Respiratory diseases being the most common cause of death either primarily or as a sequel.

The deaths of Illegitimate Children were of 2 males aged 10 and 11 months respectively from Bronchitis and Pneumonia.. The other Infant died away and particulars are unknown. The Infantile Mortality rate is 1.4 per 1000 of the population or 98 out of every 1000 children born. The rate of illegitimate deaths is practically one fifteenth of this.

Table 3 shows the causes of and ages at death as registered (of civilian residents) while table XIB shows the list as corrected at the General Register Office. It will be seen that Influenza with Bronchitis and Pneumonia caused a very great proportion of the total. Respiratory diseases caused 22 deaths in the first quarter during which there were none from Influenza or Pneumonia alone. The latter disease was epidemic and probably the respiratory deaths were partly due to that cause 2 being of children under 5 years of age. In the 2nd Quarter there were 4 deaths from measles and 14 from respiratory diseases (7 being children under 5 years) during the 3rd Quarter there were 7 deaths from Influenza and 5 from Bronchitis and Pneumonia while during the last Quarter there were 20 deaths from Influenza and 20 from Bronchitis and Pneumonia. There were 22 deaths from heart Diseases 10 from Bright's disease, 10 from Old Age 10 from Tubercular Diseases 10 from Cancers 9 from Violence and Suicide only 1 from Diarrhoea, 1 from Parturition and none from Appendicitis.

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The deaths of Illegitimate Children were of 2 males aged 10 and 11 months respectively from Bronchitis and Pneumonia.

The other Infants died away and particulars are unknown.

The Infantile Mortality rate is 1.4 per 1000 of the population or 28 out of every 1000 children born. The Illegitimate deaths in proportion are fifteen of this.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The incidence of Infectious Disease has been heavy, expansive epidemics of measles and Influenza occurring during the year. Diphtheria was prevalent throughout the year the numbers ineach quarter being 13, 4, 15, & 9; at total of 43. The majority of the cases occurred in the more Urban villages where scavenging is done by Contract. and the difficulty in getting work carried out effectively owing to War conditions seems a likely cause.

Scarlet Fever provoked 13 Notifications a number which is quite satisfactory.

Enteric Fever was notified 3 times the cases were mostly imported and amongst Munition workers.

Tuberculosis was notified as ~~Phthisis~~ Phthisis 12 times and as other forms 6 times the scarcity and bad quality of fats probably has contributed to this number, whereas the general prosperity has prevented the ill effect from being more worked.

Table 2 shows the numbers localities and ages with numbers removed to Hospital.

Measles ~~involved~~ invaded the District in the Spring and was very widespread and the type severe; school closure was adopted in schools which were invaded.

INFLUENZA. invaded the area twice during the year the first epidemic was in the 3rd quarter and very widespread but of a type not very severe. This was followed by another outbreak during November and December of a most violent and malignant type as seen by the death roll.

Measures to cope with the outbreak were similar and in conjunction with those adopted by the Northwich Urban District q.v.

The closure of schools was necessary as children were heavily hit by the outbreak, ~~and~~ schools being invaded wholesale.

All schools were disinfected during the Holidays and when closed for infectious diseases.

Two samples of blood were sent to the Public Health laboritory

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The incidence of Infectious Diseases has been heavy, epidemics of measles and Influenza occurring during the year. Diphtheria was prevalent throughout the year the numbers in each quarter being 10, 4, 18, & 9; at total of 41. The majority of the cases occurred in the more Urban villages where scavenging is done by Contract, and the difficulty getting work carried out effectively owing to War conditions seems a likely cause.

Scarlet Fever provided 15 Notifications a number which is quite satisfactory.

Enteric Fever was notified 3 times the cases were mostly imported and amongst Munition workers.

Tuberculosis was notified on ~~[illegible]~~ 12 times and on other forms 5 times the scarcity and bad quality of fuel probably has contributed to this number, whereas the general prosperity has prevented the effect from being more marked.

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INFLUENZA. Invaded the area twice during the year the first epidemic was in the 3rd quarter and very widespread but of a type not very severe. This was followed by another outbreak during November and December of a most virulent and malignant type as seen by the death roll.

Measures to cope with the outbreak were similar and in conjunction with those adopted by the Northwich Urban District q.v.

The closure of schools was necessary as children were heavily hit by the outbreak, schools being invaded wholesale.

All schools were disinfected during the Holidays and when closed infectious diseases.

Two samples of blood were sent to the Public Health Laboratory

at Manchester for Examination of Enteric reaction : one proved positive and one negative. Eighteen swabs were also sent for ~~inspection~~ suspected Diphtheria: 9 proved positive and 9 negative 114,000 Units of Anti Toxin were supplied by the Authority.

The salient features of the Public Health requirement which are the immediate cause of concern are Water Supply scavenging and Housing.

The Barnton Supply has to be shut off daily owing to the deficient supply: ~~having~~ leaving the high level portions of the area supplied without any supply from 6p.m. to 8a.m.

Owing to the supply at Brunner Mond & Co's pumping Station at Cogsha running hort they were compelled to ask the Council to find another supply in substitution for the 10,000 gallons per diem obtained from them for the Township of Barnton.

The Council met this by anticipating a portion of the comprehensive Scheme of the Surveyor (Mr.Birtwistle) and carried a 9 inch cast iro main from Hartford Water Fountain where it tapped the Council's pipe line from Crabtree Green to a point in the Avenue where it ~~entered~~ entend the private main of Brunner Mond &Co. This supplies 11,666 gallons per day for six days each week to the Winnington Water Works and in return B.M.& Co. continue to supply 10,000 gallons per day to Barnton.

The alterations in supply and distribution in the Township of Rudheath have resulted in great improvement of the service but the regular shutting off of the supply is still unsatisfactory.

Theses Townships of Barnton & Rudheath are marked out for considera building increase and makes the need for the comprehensive scheme more urgent.

Improvements in the collecting areas of both Crabtree Green and Lostock have been made with increased supplies as a result.

SCAVENGING In those Townships where a public service is instituted thew ork is let to contractors and has been a most troublesome and costly operation during the year. It is a matter for serious consideration whether the Council should not do the work

at Manchester for Examination of Samples resulted in one proved positive and one negative. Eighteen samples were also sent for ~~examination~~ Diphtheria: 9 proved positive and 9 negative. 114,000 Units of Anti Toxin were supplied by the Authority.

The sanitary features of the Public Health requirements which are of immediate cause of concern are Water Supply, sewerage and Housing. The Burton Supply has to be shut off daily owing to the deficient supply; ~~because~~ the high level portions of the area only lied without any supply from 8p.m. to 8a.m.

Owing to the supply at Brunner Mond & Co's pumping station at Dog running short they were compelled again the Council to find another supply in substitution for the 10,000 gallons per diem obtained from them for the Township of Northwich.

The Council met this by artificiating a portion of the underground volume of the Sewayer (Mr.Dixon-Mills) and carried a 9 inch main from Marston Water Township where it tapped the Council's pipe line from Cuddrew Green to a point in the Avenue where it ~~connects~~ the private main of Brunner Mond Co. This supplies 11,000 gallons per day for six days each week to the Winnington Water Works and in return B.M.& Co. continue to supply 10,000 gallons per day to Burton.

The alterations in supply and distribution in the Township of Northwich have resulted in great improvement of the service but the regular shutting off of the supply is still unsatisfactory.

Thanks Township of Barton & Northwich are marked out for rapid building increase and makes the need for the conservative action more urgent.

Improvements in the collecting areas of both Cuddrew Green and Lostock have been made with increased supplies as a result.

SEWERAGE. In these Townships there a public service is in full use their work is not to convenience and does not a well ventilated and costly operation during the year. It is a matter for serious consideration whether the Council should not do the work

instead of letting it out. if it is done more regularly and thoroughly great improvement will be affected even if it cannot be done at a less cost.

The Lostock Sewage works have been completed and are yeilding a satisfactory effluent. The County Analyst reports "from the standpoint of organic purification the effluent is exceedingly satisfactory

HOUSING This is a matter which is under reform at present and there is nothing to say except that the housing needs for all classes of house are at the present time acute.

It is to be hoped that the small family e.g. the newly married will be catered for with houses of rooms few in number but "roomy" in size with adequate curtilage and sanitary arrangements to fit them for comfortable healthy and dignified existence.

HENRY EDWARD GOUGH
Med Off. Health.

May 1919

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